

12 February 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, FCS

Subject: Comment on FBIS-EBC Sourceline Coordination

1. The spirit of compromise at the first meeting of the FBIS-EBC Working Group is gratifying. I hope that this will continue.

2. FBIS policy on sourcelines has been governed by three basic principles:

a. Sourcelines explicitly or implicitly should tell the reader what organization is responsible for broadcasting or otherwise propagating the monitored material;

b. Sourcelines should include that information which is needed to enhance understanding of the item by the reader;

c. Similar transmission situations should be indicated by sourcelines having parallel structures.

3. EBC's sourceline practice seems somewhat erratic. For example, one issue (ME/4772) of SMB started with the following:

Riyad home service  
"Voice of Palestine" (Baghdad)  
Omdurman home service  
Israel in English for abroad  
Tunis home service in Arabic  
Beirut home service  
Baghdad home service  
Amman home service  
Aden home service  
ARMA  
Damascus home service  
Israel home service  
TAP in French ...

can  
4. Before we evaluate meaningfully the effect of the changes proposed in LDI27, we will have to know how EBC proposes to deal with such fundamental matters as the inclusion of the point of origin.

OK 9-0

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  - a. Sourcelines explicitly or implicitly should tell the reader what organization is responsible for broadcasting or otherwise propagating the monitored material;
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3. BBC's sourceline practice seems somewhat erratic. For example, one issue (ME/4772) of SWB started with the following:
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  - Amman home service
  - Aden home service
  - ARNA
  - Damascus home service
  - Israel home service
  - TAP in French ...
- can
4. Before we evaluate meaningfully the effect of the changes proposed in LD127, we will have to know how BBC proposes to deal with such fundamental matters as the inclusion of the point of origin.

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5. Regarding the specific proposals mentioned in LD127, BBC's concurrence in the use of "Domestic Service" is welcome but not much of a concession. Most Americans do not attach the same connotations to "Home Service" that Britons do (as in "Home Office") and "Domestic Service" seems to be a better vehicle for conveying the wanted meaning.

6. At present, FBIS uses the expression "International Service" (or "Overseas Service", "General Overseas Service," "World Service," or "External Service," depending on the actual announcements of the broadcasters) in the following situations:

- a. When no target is announced,
- b. When the announced target is vague or unrealistic,
- c. When the broadcaster announces several targets, the enumeration of which would make the sourceline too lengthy,
- d. When a broadcaster repeats the same material for a number of targets, any of which may be selected for monitoring.

7. I see no particular advantage in standardizing on "External Service," when it must be applied to a broadcast announced as "Radio Australia, the Overseas Service of the Australian Broadcasting Commission," for example.

8. The statement that: "BBC accepts our format for overseas casts aimed at a specified target, example: Peking in English to Africa" implies that we would always use such a format when a specific target is announced. As indicated in paragraph 6 above, this is not always desirable.



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